

VASH

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*A program of the U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development and the U.S.
Department of Veterans Affairs*



Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)

Program of Massachusetts



VASH Partner Agencies

Bedford VAMC
Department of Housing and Community
Development (DHCD)

Boston VAMC
Boston Housing Authority
(BHA)

Northampton VAMC
Northampton Housing Authority
(NHA)



What is VASH?

- A joint program between the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides housing and case management services.
- VA Medical Centers (VAMC) provide:
 - Full range long term clinical and case management services
- The Public Housing Agencies (PHA) provide:
 - Housing assistance in the form of a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher.

Who is eligible for VASH?

Referral to VASH is through the **VAMC Homeless Services Program** at the participating VAMC.

- HUD VASH participation will be available to veterans – both individuals and families - who are chronically homeless and in need of treatment for a substance abuse or mental illness. Chronic homelessness means that the veteran has been continuously without housing for at least one year, or has had at least four episodes of lack of housing in the past three years.
- If funding permits, other homeless veteran populations not currently identified as chronically homeless with a substance abuse or mental illness may be offered the opportunity to participate in VASH at the discretion of the participating VAMC.
- Veterans must agree to accept case management services and actively follow an established treatment regime over a period of time determined by their VAMC case manager.

How does the Voucher help with housing?

- The Housing Choice Voucher provides a rent subsidy that generally covers rental costs in excess of 30% of the veteran's income.

Process:

- The Public Housing Agency (PHA) will verify the veteran's income, issue the voucher, and meet with the veteran and their VASH case manager to explain how the program works.
- The Case Manager will assist the veteran in locating suitable rental housing in a city or town of the veteran's choice, provided it is located within reasonable distance (generally one hour) of the VAMC.
- The PHA will inspect the apartment to make sure it is in good condition.
- If the landlord agrees to lease the apartment to the veteran, and it meets the standards of their Case Manager, the landlord and the veteran sign the lease.
- The veteran, assisted by their Case Manager, moves into the apartment.
- The Veteran continues to receive services for their Case Manager.